

CABINS ON EXHIBITION

DRAWER 11

BIRTHPLACE CABINS

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Kentucky Birthplace Cabin

Cabins on Exhibition

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Chautauquan

July 1892

Woman's Council Table.

THE EARLY HOME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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one day holding a cup and saucer in my hand, the cock darted down and knocked the cup out of the saucer.

Members of our household were not the only offenders. Four snakes, two *boomslangs*, or tree snakes, and two adders, were found at different times crawling along the porch in the direction of the nest. The spreos saw them first and raised such a din that we guessed the cause and ran out and slew the intruders.

One morning we noticed that the birds scarcely fed the young ones at all, and, after watching closely, we concluded that it was some instinct which told them that those fat chickens needed thinning before they attempted flying. When they brought food, instead of flying to the nest and giving it to the chickens, they sat about calling, then flew to the tree, showed the delicious morsel, and down again calling *pee-or* in the most coaxing tones. The cock bird always did this; the hen was much more tender-hearted; she generally gave her food to the young ones at once and then hopped gently after the cock, trying to take his away; whenever she came too near he turned away from her, but after a minute or two became tired of her importunity and let her take the morsel and give it to the chickens.

This plan was carried on for more than a week; the chicks often called for food, a thing they had never done before. In the latter part of the afternoon the spreos gave them a good meal, but began the starving process again the next morning.

One day we found that one young bird had

come out and was sitting in a large tree about sixty yards below the hill. We concluded that she must fly early in the morning to escape birds of prey, hawks being their sworn enemies. The attention of the spreos was now much divided between feeding the chicken in the tree and starving those in the nest. They were extremely anxious to coax them out, but three days passed before they could be persuaded; then just as the gray morning crept over the sea we were roused by the repeated whistle of the parent birds, and we went out to see the result. The brave one that had ventured first into the unknown was there too, sitting in the locust trees ready to meet and reassure his nest-mates. Suddenly one of them flopped out, flew heavily to the locust trees ten yards off and plunged into the branches; the others gathered round and there was a great talking together, in the midst of which another left the nest and joined them. The excitement was intense, the birds were calling, and we were all waiting for the fourth to come out, but he remained on the nest all that day. He joined them early the next morning and then we lost sight of them for several days.

One day while sitting in my room a series of quick, sweet calls took me to my window in time to see four handsome spreos sweep up to the top of an old American aloe flower. The parents left the nest they were building and flew to meet them. On the brown stalks that had once held golden flowers, they hopped and whistled together once more,—then the quick call for flight; away! away! and the misty sand-hills hid them.

THE EARLY HOME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY MRS. A. J. B. BADGER.

ON a pleasant afternoon in May, 1891, an opportunity was afforded us to visit the historic spot familiarly known as Old Salem, but called New Salem in history. This was the early home of Abraham Lincoln. Near here he assisted in building the noted flatboat which he helped to float down the rivers to New Orleans; here he was assistant in the village grocery where he spent leisure moments studying his borrowed books; and here he was postmaster. The place is now but a dilapidated ruin, scarcely a vestige remaining of the well-known village of fifty or sixty years ago. It is located on the left bank of the Sangamon River twenty miles below Springfield and two miles up the river from Petersburg, the county seat of Menard County, Illinois.

At an abrupt turn of the river an old mill-dam remains, but the mill which was once located here has long since disappeared. Some thirty rods up a steep and thickly wooded hill from the mill seat can be seen the cellar

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THE WOMAN LECTURER.

of the Lincoln store, now almost filled to a level with the surrounding earth. As we clamber over rails of the old fence we wonder if these are some of the handiwork of the famous rail-splitter. A sign in a conspicuous place contains a warning against carrying away any souvenir from the premises.

At the southwest corner of the cellar is a strange phenomenon. About thirty years ago two young trees, an elm and a sycamore, contested for the same spot of ground, and, as neither could uproot the other, the elm clasped the sycamore at the base and thus they stand, both growing, a fitting illustration of the work of the great emancipator in reuniting the dis severed portions of our country. At a distance of about thirteen feet above ground, a local artist, Mr. Phillips, cut a fine medallion portrait of Lincoln in the side of the sycamore. The features are distinctly marked, the hair and whiskers are painted black, making the profile quite true and lifelike. It is much to be regretted that some vandal hand has slightly disfigured the picture by discharging into it a load of shot.

One can but regret also the neglect and almost desolation which now characterize the early home of the great president. It was here he prepared himself for public life; and from here he moved to Springfield, which was henceforward his home until called to preside over our country during the stormiest four years of our existence as a nation.

But any reference to New Salem would be incomplete without some notice of "the beautiful Anna Rutledge," the early love of Abraham Lincoln. This lady was born January 7, 1813, and died at New Salem, August 25, 1835. The historian says that the heart of Abraham Lincoln was buried in Anna Rutledge's coffin, and that he then passed into a gloom from which he never fully recovered. Having been buried in old Concord cemetery, six miles distant and now abandoned, her remains were removed to Oakland cemetery at Petersburg, May 15, 1890, where a suitable monument will be erected to her memory. But for her early death this lovely young woman might have been mistress of the White House and first lady in the land.

THE WOMAN LECTURER.

BY MARGARET N. WISHARD.

At any time within the past ten years, a globe-traveler might have met an American woman speaking through an interpreter to audiences in twenty-five languages, scattered over a circuit of fifty thousand miles. During the same time ten thousand towns of our own land have listened to woman's voice from the pulpit or rostrum. The last five years have witnessed the establishment of an annual National Council of Women at Washington whose platform is as crowded with speakers as the hall is with hearers. Two years have given rise to the Federation of Women's Clubs, whose biennial meetings are as rich in oratory as the discussions are varied. Another straw showing the same current is the fact that at the Interstate Oratorical Contest, whose participants enter, first as the winners from their own colleges, then from their respective state contests, the victor this year over ten states was a young lady.

As naturally as the birds sing with the day-break, is the voice of woman heard with the

dawn of the republic. The two are necessary to each other. When, with the same new-born spirit of liberty which brought our forefathers to the harsh coast of New England, Anne Hutchinson immediately proclaimed such truths as she felt were revealed to her, without restraint because of sex, she but exemplified the connection between successful republics and the authority of woman's speech. The illustration was not heeded. Old-world prejudices have clung two hundred years to choke this powerful element in the progress of all that is good in morals and politics. The banishment of Anne Hutchinson to the wilderness and a cruel death, because of her earnest preaching, placed a quietus upon the public speaking of one half the citizens of this republic, not lifted even when the shackles were struck from black slaves.

Meanwhile audaciously one descendant after another of the woman martyr arose undaunted to proclaim truths she believed important. Lucretia Mott lifted her voice in

LINCOLN CABIN VANISHED I

Structure Exhibited Here

By ALEXANDER CORBETT

WHAT became of Abraham Lincoln's log-cabin home, built with his own hands 100 years ago this Spring, exhibited on Boston Common 35 years later, following his assassination, and relegated to oblivion soon afterward?

Diligent investigation for the last 40 years by western historical associations and by Lincoln biographers wishing to recover that first Illinois

Lincoln's cabin as it looked when set up on Boston Common in 1865, with Park sq and the first Providence Railroad Station in the background. The chimney which was on the cabin as Lincoln constructed it was removed before it was brought to Boston.

home of Lincoln, for preservation as a patriotic shrine, has failed to reveal any evidence of its existence since October, 1865.

The memory of the long-lost Lincoln log-cabin is revived today by the fact that his assassination, 65 years ago tomorrow, led to its exhibition in Boston only three months after his death.

Cabins His Boyhood Homes

Abraham Lincoln lived from his birth till the age of 21 in log cabins, first in Kentucky, then Indiana and finally in Illinois, seven miles West of Decatur.

There, in 1830, his carpenter father, Thomas Lincoln, his step-mother, whom he loved like a real mother, and John Hanks, a cousin of Abe's mother, Nancy Hanks, erected the log cabin destined to be exhibited on Boston Common for nine weeks, 35 years later.

The removal of the Lincoln family to Illinois in March, 1830, from Indiana, where a prevalent disease had carried off a number of its members, involved the migration of 13 persons, including Abraham, Thomas Lincoln, the father; Sarah Bush, Abe's stepmother; Abe's sister and her husband, the step-mother's three children by a former husband, and William J. Hall, whose mother had been a sister of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Oxen Drew Their Carts

Two ox-carts conveyed the family household effects from Indiana to Illinois, through primeval forest and swamps, fording brooks and rivers. Abe, who drove one of the carts, peddled household utensils and "notions" along the way, doubling his investment of \$30 in them, which was all the money he had to set out with. On arrival at the new home in Illinois

Chicago convention of 1860, by exhibiting at a crucial moment during the balloting some of those 1830 fence rails as samples of the handiwork of the rail-splitting candidate.

One Room For 13 People?

As it is doubtful if the cabin ever contained more than one room, it is an interesting speculation how many of the Lincoln family party of 13 that removed from Indiana moved into the new domicile. There must have been at least six, Abe, his father and step-mother and her own three children.

After working as a hired man in the vicinity of his new home for several months and investing his

earnings in a new suit of blue jeans, Abe took the longest trip he had ever had.

He helped build a flat-boat, then floated on it, as one of the hands, down to New Orleans to dispose of a cargo of hogs and other Illinois farm products.

Returning to Illinois again three or four months later, he found that owing to an epidemic of chills and fever his family had already vacated the new

log house and emigrated to another county.

Just 34 years later, while the slow-moving cortege of the dead Lincoln was on its way from Washington to Springfield, Ill, for interment, John Hanks, who had been all his life an impecunious frontier farmer, was hurriedly taking apart the old log cabin of 1830, apparently hoping to get some ready cash by exhibiting it in large cities, before the excitement to the President's assassination died out.

The representation of the cabin, shown with this article, is from a photograph apparently taken before the structure had been removed from its original site in Illinois. John Hanks

is seen nearest to the doorway. The picture of it on the Common is in part from one in Frank Leslie's newspaper of that period.

Hanks, on dismantling the cabin to take it on the road, abandoned the logs constituting the clay-lined chimney, presumably in the interest of economy in transportation, a measure which gave the structure an ugliness it had never before had.

On May 30, 1865, Hanks had the bare

log walls reassembled, and on exhibition in Chicago, on a lot at Randolph st and Wabash av, as a feature of a Sanitary Commission fair for the benefit of the Civil War hospital service.

After five weeks in Chicago, the cabin was again dismantled and brought to Boston, where by permission of the City Government it was set up for public patronage on the parade ground of the Common, where the present Park sq was not much more than 200 feet in its rear and the first Providence Railroad station was in the vista.

It was before the Boston Globe had been founded. It has been a surprising discovery that only one of eight or more daily local newspapers at that period and two of about 50 weeklies, noticed the presence of the patriotic relic here.

Rival Shows on Common

As in Chicago, Hanks found on the Common three rival attractions that had the advantage of being free. Only a few hundred feet from his cabin, adjoining the old burying ground, was a park containing a herd of deer and a black bear, supposed to constitute a "happy family," till the bear made a hearty meal one night of a deer.

In the Frog Pond was a tame seal, till tiring of fresh water it one dark night floundered across the parade ground and Public Garden to Arlington st, then shoreline of the Back Bay, into which it joyously plunged, undoubtedly soon to find a more congenial environment in the outer harbor.

Surviving Bostonians who visited the cabin testify to having been invited by Hanks to purchase small toys or knick-knacks which he represented as made of the 1830 rails split by Lincoln, and even of logs from the cabin, which was possible, as many original logs of the chimney-end of the cabin were missing here.

Gov Andrew Visited It

Three days after the cabin went on exhibition it received a sort of official

the family found that John Hanks, who had removed there sometime before, so that it did not take long for Abraham, Hanks and Hall to put up the structure, which had no windows, the open door furnishing all the sunlight that ever entered it and the blazing fire on the hearth the only illumination when bad weather required that the door be closed.

John Hanks was later responsible for the story that cousin Abe, after the cabin was up, personally split with an ax enough walnut rails to build a zig-zag fence around 10 acres of the new farm, the last work he did as a matter of filial obligation, as he had reached the age of 21 several months before.

Hanks has also been credited with having brought about the nomination of cousin Abe for President in the

dedication by visits from Gov John A. Andrew, Mayor Frederic W. Lincoln, great-grandson of Paul Revere, and United States Senators Charles Sumner and Henry Wilson.

The Saturday Evening Express hailed the cabin as "the great lion of the city, owing to its architectural novelty."

Hanks, a rugged looking farmer, with long, bushy white beard, usually in his shirtsleeves on warm days, commonly sat on a stool outside the door of the cabin, awaiting expectantly the approach of anyone ready to give up the price of admission.

Evidence of increasing log-cabin fever appeared in an announcement a few days afterward, that a log cabin used by Gen Grant during his Virginia campaign, a few months before, had been removed, with its furnishings, to Philadelphia to be an attraction in Fairmount Park.

Gen Grant Another Visitor

July 28 might have been called

"Irish Nobility Day" on the Common, in reference to a visit to the cabin that day of the Marquis of Drogheda and his wife, who, after listening to Hanks' reminiscences, departed, declaring that they felt honored in grasping the hand of one who had shared the youthful privations of the great Civil War President.

Gen Grant, who had seen the log cabin in Chicago in June, must have taken a liking to John Hanks there, for while the General was here the

no crowd about it, the General lighted a cigar and strolled about the parade ground, finding the first hour of quiet enjoyment he had experienced for some time."

What a marvel, that the General, only four months after the capture of Richmond, ending a four years' war, could actually find solitude at mid-day on Boston Common.

It was no doubt a happier circumstance for him than for John Hanks, whose patriotic exhibit does not seem

ple in general may visit this grand relic."

Hanks is said to have expressed in Chicago, before coming to Boston, an intention of taking the cabin to England for exhibition after leaving here.

A change of mind is indicated by the following announcement in the Express of Sept 9, the last day on which the relic was seen in Boston:

"We are glad to learn that Uncle John Hanks has been invited by Barnum to transfer the Lincoln cabin from Boston Common to his new museum in New York.

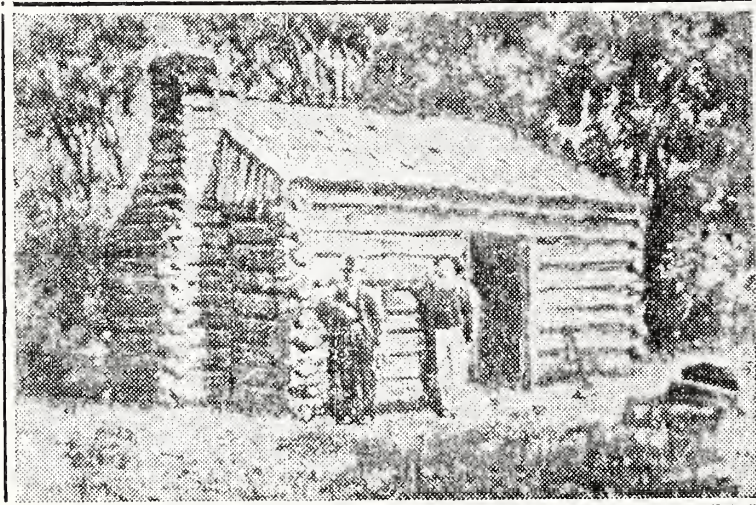
"During its stay in Boston the cabin has been visited by all classes of citizens. New Yorkers will no doubt manifest equal regard for this sacred relic."

Barnum's Museum had been burned

out only about two months earlier, but it was reopened on Sept 6. Hanks pulled up stakes in Boston on the 9th, and on the 18th his cabin was on exhibition in one of the big "salons" at Barnum's, flamboyantly advertised in New York papers as having been visited in Boston by leading public officials and citizens.

After Oct 28, Barnum's advertisements contained no mention of the log cabin, which, with John Hanks, had dropped out of sight, never again to be heard of publicly, down to the present time.

Files of Philadelphia newspapers of the time show no evidence of its having been taken there on leaving New York. Whether it went to some city to the westward, or never was set up again, remains a mystery.



THE CABIN AS BUILT BY LINCOLN HIMSELF

first week in August, accompanied by his staff, after having his photograph taken at Whipple's, on the site of the present Globe building, followed by a visit to Bunker Hill Monument, without climbing to the top, "owing to limited time," he had the experience thus described in the Express of Aug 5:

"Gen Grant had one comfortable breathing spell while in Boston, when, with Mayor Lincoln, he visited, unheralded, the Lincoln log cabin on the Common, quietly spending some time in it conversing with John Hanks.

"On leaving the cabin, as there was

to have proved very remunerative, though it was within 100 feet of the West-st to Park-sq path, daily trod by many thousand Providence railroad commuters.

The lack of attraction was very likely largely due to the bare earth floor in the cabin, the wide-open cracks between the logs, through which the wind often whistled, and the hard benches for visitors.

On Aug 26, when the cabin had been exhibited six weeks, Hanks advertised a reduction in the price of admission to 10 cents for adults and five cents for children, "in accordance with the desire of many citizens that the peo-

Lincoln Cabin on Boston Common

ARTHUR H. HOWE

Thomas B. Shoaff of Shelbyville told The Herald Tuesday, that he was willing to make an affidavit that the Lincoln cabin from the Harriestown bottoms was exhibited on Boston Common in 1865.

"I'll swear to it," was Mr. Shoaff's answer to the statement of the Massachusetts Historical society published in the Continental edition of The Herald.

Society Has no Record of Cabin

Requesting the truth about the story, The Herald wrote to the Society and had this reply from the librarian, Julius T. Tuttle:

"I am sorry to say that I am unable to find any reference to the exhibit on Boston common of Lincoln's cabin in the '60's or any other time. An important event of that kind, if it happened, would have found its way into the records of this region."

In reply, Mr. Shoaff has invited The Herald to search the records of the Boston City council for the permit that his father, James Shoaff of Decatur secured for the exhibition of Lincoln's first home in Illinois.

"I was 18 years old in 1865" said Mr. Shoaff, "and was publishing my first newspaper, 'The Boy About Town,' the year before. I remember the incident clearly. Father had the logs numbered and shipped to Boston. Later I expressed walnut rails taken from the cabin sight to Boston, and the express charge was \$14. These rails were fashioned into souvenirs and sold. Dennis Hanks, my mother's father, and John Hanks went along with father."

Later in Chicago

"Grandfather Dennis Hanks has told me many times how people wept on seeing the cabin. It was soon after

Lincoln's assassination, either June, July or August, 1865. For several months father was with the cabin.

"The cabin was later shipped to Chicago and there exhibited. It passed out of father's hands and was supposed to have been shipped to England and lost in the passage. Of course, the story that the cabin was exhibited in the centennial exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 is a fake."

Has Photograph

Mr. Shoaff has a picture of the cabin with Dennis and John Hanks standing in front of the cabin, and on the back the certification that it is a true picture.

Mr. Shoaff says while attending Memorial Service at the Shilo Cemetery in Cook county, on Decoration Day, where Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, and his stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston are buried, he met Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, 5834 Harper Avenue, Chicago, who delivered an address, "Lincoln from the Cradle to the Grave, who says she paid \$25 for the same picture which bore the date, 1861. Mr. Shoaff told her that she had been imposed upon, since the picture was not taken until four years later, and that fraud is being practiced by changing the date, 1865 to 1861, and claiming that it was shown on the Boston Common in that year.

Affidavit Sworn to

I, Thomas Benton Shoaff, being duly sworn deposes and says that the foregoing interview in part, published in the Decatur Herald July 10, 1929, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

THOMAS BENTON SHOAFF,

Shelbyville, Ill., July 15, 1929.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of July, A. D. 1929.

E. A. JOHNSTON,
County Clerk, Shelby Co., Ill.

(6134.) In the summer or fall of 1865 there was exhibited on the Common a log cabin said to have been built by Abraham Lincoln and others with whom he was associated. Can anyone give a description of it, or about the time it was there? Q.

6134. I have an authentic piece of Abraham Lincoln's log cabin, together with a descriptive circular which was issued by the company, exhibiting that to which you refer. I do not know the exact date of its exhibition, but I would be pleased to show both of these relics to you at any time.

W. G. L.

I have a photograph of a log cabin, "President Lincoln's First Home in Illinois," built by Lincoln and John Hanks. It was exhibited by John Hanks on Boston Common about the year 1865. The house was built in 1830. L. F. S. B.

Pays Tribute to T. B. Shoaff

From the Decatur Review, Aug. 4, 1929.

The Boston Herald's editorial commenting on the first home of the Thomas Lincoln family of Illinois, and its showing on Boston Common mentioned in Friday's Review, is a tribute to T. B. Shoaff of Shelbyville.

In theme, the editorial is based on Mr. Shoaff's own recollections of the showing, a story which Decatur accepted long ago.

While the display of the cabin in Boston is not a matter of public or newspaper record, the editorial lays considerable stress on an old handbill, advertising the showing, now in the hands of Dr. William E. Barton. That this was "the Lincoln cabin" was attested on the handbill in a letter signed by Richard J. Oglesby, then governor of Illinois.

The Editorial

The editorial follows:

"Of original Lincoln cabins---habitations associated more or less intimately with life of Abraham Lincoln, there are seven, and each has its more or less interesting history. Was one of these ever exhibited on Boston Common?

Thomas Benton Shoaff, senior editor of a newspaper published in Shelbyville, Illinois, and perhaps the oldest working editor in continuous service in the country, grandson of Dennis Hanks, the cousin of Abraham Lincoln's mother, of clear mind and light step today at the age of eighty-two, answers "yes." He says his boyhood was spent largely in the home of John Hanks, also cousin of Dennis, and says that he was present in the Decatur wigwam

when John Hanks and Isaac Jennings came in with the famous Lincoln fence-rails.

"He says also, that John Hanks helped Abraham Lincoln build a log cabin in Macon County, Illinois in 1830, for Lincoln's father, and that a tiny old fashioned photograph described as a picture of the cabin Lincoln helped his father build is now in his possession. The two men shown in the picture he identifies as John and Dennis Hanks, and states that he does not remember whether the photograph was taken before or after the cabin was shown on the Boston Common in the year 1865.



The first Lincoln Log Cabin in Illinois

"Dr. William E. Barton, indefatigable and more successful than anybody else in the quest of Lincoln facts, has just finished what he says is not an exhaustive investigation of this story, but has brought results. He has talked with the octogenarian editor and examined the negative, from which pictures were to be made for sale as souvenirs.

"He has heard the recital of how the editor's father, James Shoaff, marked the cabin logs, shipped them to Boston, where the building was to be re-erected on the Common. But no record could be found at the city hall of any grant for the use of the Common for such a purpose. No reference to the cabin could be found in the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

"Thereupon, Editor Shoaff printed his own affidavit as above in the Illinois papers, with an additional information that after the cabin had been shown later in Chicago it passed out of his father's hands and was supposed to have been shipped to England and lost in passage.

Finds Handbill

"And now a bit of luck befalls Dr. Barton. In 1911 there was sold at Libbie's here in Boston a large collection of Lincolniana, and one lot, extremely rare, was a handbill or 'doger,' about six inches by twelve, printed by the Boston Herald at 4 Williams Court headed thus:

"The Original Lincoln Cabin is now on Exhibition on the Parade Ground, Boston Common. The

broadside names persons who have seen the cabin, states how it was built, and continues with an authenticating letter, dated May 20, 1865, from Richard J. Oglesby, then Governor of Illinois. Admission to the cabin is 25 cents, children 10 cents."

"Dr. Barton now owns this handbill. He accepts as fact that the Macon County Cabin was located on Boston Common in 1865. He thinks there must be more evidence somewhere---and of course there are questions that still are unanswered. Perhaps some of our readers can help."

Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston Street
Boston

July 31, 1929.

My Dear Mr. Shoaff:

The following item in the Boston Evening Transcript of June 15, 1865, may interest you and help to refresh your memory. The Fair in Chicago was for the Sanitary Commission, and you may be able to find from the records, which may be preserved in Chicago, some clue as to the disposition of the Cabin at its close:

"President Lincoln's Log Cabin, on exhibition at the Chicago Fair, which he helped to build with his own hands in the days of his youth and poverty, is the most interesting of all the objects in the Fair. It has been brought piece-meal from its original location, and erected inside a broad inclosure at the corner of Randolph street and Wabash Avenue. It is a quadrangular building, about sixteen by sixteen, as nearly as its measurement can be guessed, and is a veritable log-cabin, an aboriginal backwoodsman's dwelling."

Sincerely yours,

JULIUS H. TUTTLE,
Librarian.

Lincoln's Residence

A Revered Tradition

MACON COUNTY reveres its Lincoln tradition, but the facts regarding Lincoln's activities here are scanty. That he was a friend of the Warnick family, and was a guest in their home in Blue Mound township, and that he wooed one of the Warnick girls, was testified to by old settlers in the seventies.

It was nearly 30 years after his residence in Harriestown township that Lincoln became a national figure, and 10 more were to pass before anything like general interest in Lincoln's life developed. Writing of Lincoln biography began to be a mania in the turn of the nineteenth century.

It is known that Lincoln came with his father and family to Illinois in March 1830; that he built a cabin in the Sangamon bottoms southwest of what is now Harriestown; and that he moved on later to New Salem. After his removal Macon county held little that was of sentimental interest for him.

That Shoaff Photograph

James Shoaff, the Decatur publisher, and father of Thomas Shoaff of Shelbyville, capitalized on Lincoln's fame by having a photograph made of the Lincoln cabin in the bottoms with John and Dennis Hanks standing in front of it. A label on the photograph is their certificate to the fact that this is a genuine Lincoln cabin.

John Hanks was a cousin of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's own mother. He had preceded Thomas Lincoln's family in coming to Macon county. It was of the logs which Hanks had cut when he intended to clear Sangamon bottom land that the cabin was constructed. Dennis Hanks was not mentioned as a relative in Lincoln's autobiographical notes. Thomas Lincoln soon went back to Coles county and passed the remainder of his life there. Abraham remained in the Harriestown bottoms through the year 1830, and probably departed the next spring.

Cabin Shown in Boston?

Conflicting accounts exist as to the fate of the cabin which he built. To all appearances it was simply a squatter's hut, and certainly no sentimental value attached to it for years. Lincoln became a candidate for President, and split fence rails became campaign symbols, but nothing was said about the cabin.

Tom Shoaff, now living in Shelbyville, declares that, having photographed John and Dennis Hanks in front of the cabin in 1865, after Lincoln's death, James Shoaff, his father, took down the logs, had them shipped to Boston and set the cabin up on Boston common where he exhibited it. John Hanks accompanied him on this trip and sold souvenirs.

Two Stories Do Not Jibe

An inquiry made of the Massachusetts Historical society by The Herald brought from its librarian, Julius H. Tuttle, the following:

"I am sorry to say that I am unable to find any reference to the exhibit on Boston common of Lincoln's cabin in the '60's or any other time. A important event of that kind, if it happened, would have found its way into the records of this region."

Still another story is that the cabin remained where it was first erected until 1876 and was then taken down and sent to the Philadelphia Centennial exposition. Both stories obviously cannot be right.

The fact was that when the D. A. R. attempted to mark the site of the cabin on the west end of the Scroggins farm in Harriestown 25 years ago, there was a disagreement as to the place and the disagreement continues today.

As a lawyer and politician Lincoln returned many times to Decatur. He recalled that on the journey from Indiana he entered from the south along what is now the line of the Illinois Central, but he never, so far as is known, mentioned his first home in Illinois.

The nearest approach to it was in 1860 when John Oglesby and John Hanks brought to the Wigwam in State street, where the state convention endorsed Lincoln for the presidency, some split rails from the Harriestown bottoms. Lincoln declared that if they were not the identical rails which he and John split, they were mighty like them.

DECATUR ILL EVEN HER
SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1929.

MORE ON THE LINCOLN CABIN

While a Boston newspaper librarian at The Herald's request is searching his files for some reference to the Lincoln log cabin being shown in Boston in 1865, word comes that should please Editor Tom Shoaff of Shelbyville.

Dr. William E. Barton, that tireless collector of Lincoliana, has come into possession of a handbill issued in Boston and announcing "The Original Lincoln Cabin now on exhibition on the Parade Ground, Boston Common."

It will be recalled the Massachusetts Historical Society was unable to authenticate Mr. Shoaff's story that the cabin in which Lincoln had his first home in Illinois, the very cabin that was built on the banks of the Sangamon, in Harriestown township, actually had been shown on Boston Common. Mr. Shoaff made affidavit that his father, James Shoaff, Decatur newspaper publisher, shipped the cabin to Boston and took with him John and Dennis Hanks, who sold visitors to the cabin souvenirs made from fence rails.

Not only was the Massachusetts Historical society without a record of the cabin having been shown, but there has not been disclosed any record of a grant by the Boston council for the exhibition of the cabin on the common.

The handbill that has fallen into Dr. Barton's possession contains the names of persons who saw the cabin and an authenticating letter dated May 20, 1865, from Richard J. Oglesby, then governor of Illinois. Admission to the cabin is announced to be 25 cents, children 10 cents.

Dr. Barton, accordingly, accepts the fact that the cabin was located on Boston Common in 1854, but he thinks that there must be more evidence somewhere. The story of Editor Shoaff's affidavit made out for The Herald has been spread in Boston, and it is hoped that information will come from old readers who may have visited the cabin.

It has seemed to The Herald, that if the cabin really were shown, there would have been a reference to it in some of the Boston papers, but it is bound to say that the absence of such a reference would not be convincing proof that Mr. Shoaff is mistaken. For a newspaper editor's idea of news in the '60's differed considerably from the idea of news in the present day. Local events were slightly treated or passed over altogether in favor of politics in Washington, reconstruction in the South or a European war cloud.

It is just possible that a story of the original Lincoln cabin being shown on the Common, and written by a reporter who thought it was news, would have gone into the waste basket as too trivial to print or the scheme of some clever faker. Journalism in those days was highly dignified and oftentimes highly uninteresting.

DECATUR ILL MORNING HER
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1929.

NEW YORK CITY TIMES
SEPTEMBER 4, 1929

THE CABIN IN BOSTON

The question whether the cabin which Abraham Lincoln helped his father to erect in Macon County, Illinois, in the spring of 1831, actually came to Boston and stood for a time on the Common, now has its definite answer. Admitting that the evidence was strangely scanty yet declaring his conviction that the cabin actually came to Boston in 1865, and old John Hanks with it, Dr. William E. Barton told in The Herald that he possessed a handbill, printed in The Herald office, declaring that the cabin was then on exhibition on the Parade Ground. No date was given.

Mr. Julius H. Tuttle, secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, now furnishes the following data:

The Transcript of June 15, 1865, had a short paragraph relating that this cabin was then on exhibition at the Northwestern Sanitary Fair in Chicago, and was attracting much attention there.

The Liberator, on July 21, had a paragraph telling of the exhibit in Chicago. "where it was visited by thousands" and of its prospective coming to Boston. Apparently it was even then on the way for on July 29 the Advertiser told of the visit to the cabin of the Marquis of Drogheda and his Lady, and of their visit with the unabashed and dignified John Hanks, from whom they bought some relics made from rails that Lincoln split. The Advertiser of Aug. 1, 1865, had a paragraph concerning the cabin and John Hanks.

And this seems to settle another Lincoln controversy.

Although the period of Lincoln's greatness was in the last half of the last century, the quest to clear up details of his life and activities remains keen. Only recently the literary world was engaged in a controversy over the authenticity of family papers, since discredited, purporting to give an account of his youth. The latest dispute to find its way into print is taken up in a pamphlet, just received here from Illinois, in which THOMAS B. SHOAFF of Shelbyville, great-grandson of LINCOLN's stepmother, discusses the fate of the cabin in Macon County, Ill., which was the first home of the Emancipator in that State. It was built by LINCOLN and his two cousins, DENNIS and JOHN HANKS, and a picture of it is signed by the cousins attesting that this particular one is the real article.

Mr. SHOAFF, who says he is the oldest editor and publisher in active service in this country, deposes that his father, DENNIS and JOHN HANKS took down the cabin, log by log, in "June, July or August, 1865," and re-erected it on Boston Common, where it was exhibited by them. Later the elder SHOAFF accompanied the cabin to Chicago. It was then sold to an English syndicate but is supposed to have been lost in transit to England. The cabin, sayeth the deponent, was not shown at Boston in 1861, as has been claimed, or at Philadelphia in 1876. Thus it is sought to clear up another mystery of Lincolniana.

BOSTON MASS HERALD
AUGUST 22, 1929

THE FAMILY ALBUM



(Photograph courtesy of Robert L. Ide)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FIRST HOME IN ILLINOIS—

14.1
22

This ancient photograph, the first and only one ever taken of the Lincoln cabin which stood about 10 miles west of Decatur, near the Sangamon River, shows the first home of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois, the family having immigrated from Indiana in 1830. Standing by the cabin, left to right, are Dennis Hanks and John Hanks, cousins of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who, with Mr. Lincoln, erected the cabin and split rails enough to fence ten acres of ground roundabout it. Dennis Hanks was the old gentleman who gave Lincoln his lessons in reading and writing, and John Hanks was Lincoln's companion in his early days and with him on many flat-boat journeys on the Mississippi. During the Civil War period he was a wagonmaster in General Grant's armies. Lincoln lived here only one year, moving on to New Salem in 1831. The date of this picture is 1865, and the photographer was J. L. Campbell of Chicago. The original is very small—in fact of the type known as "carte-de-viste." The rails used in this cabin played an important part in the political campaign of "The Rail-Splitter" in 1860. Shortly after the picture was made, and following Lincoln's assassination, James Shoaff (grandson of Dennis Hanks), Dennis Hanks and John Hanks took down the logs, numbering them, and shipped them to Chicago, where they set up the cabin and exhibited it for a time at the corner of Randolph Street and Wabash Avenue, on the then lake front. The three men had charge of the cabin in Chicago and later took it on to Boston, where they exhibited it on Boston Common for about eight months. Many noted personages visited the cabin in both cities. The admission fee was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. Copies of this carte-de-viste photograph were sold as souvenirs and, Dennis Hanks delivered a regular lecture to the visitors. The logs were finally disposed of to an English syndicate and while in transit were lost at sea. The historian-biographer, Dr. Barton, tells us that all in all there were seven Lincoln cabins "and much confusion regarding them," but apparently this one is well verified.

THE LINCOLN CABIN

While Lincoln's greatness was in the last half of the last century, the efforts to clear up the details of his life and activities are still the source of many disputes. Just recently the literary world was engaged in a controversy over the authenticity of family papers, which have since been discredited, purporting to give an account of his youth. The latest dispute to find its way into print is taken up in a pamphlet, in which T. B. Shoaff, of Shelbyville, formerly newspaper publisher of Danville, great grandson of Lincoln's stepmother, discusses the fate of the cabin in Macon county, which was the first home of Lincoln in Illinois. This cabin was built by Lincoln and his two cousins, Dennis and John Hanks, and a picture of it is signed by the cousins attesting that this particular one is the real article.

Mr. Shoaff, who, by the way, claims to be the oldest editor and publisher in active service in this country, states that his father, Dennis and John Hanks took down the cabin, log by log, in "June, July or August, 1865," and re-erected it on Boston Common, where it was exhibited by them. Later the elder Shoaff accompanied the cabin to Chicago. It was then sold to an English syndicate but is supposed to have been lost in transit to England. The cabin, says Mr. Shoaff, was not shown at Boston in 1861, as has been claimed, or at Philadelphia in 1876. Thus it is sought to clear up another mystery of Lincolniana.

DANVILLE ILL COML NEWS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1929.

Lincoln's Illinois Cabin.

Although the period of LINCOLN's greatness was in the last half of the last century, the quest to clear up details of his life and activities remains keen. Only recently the literary world was engaged in a controversy over the authenticity of family papers, since discredited, purporting to give an account of his youth. The latest dispute to find its way into print is taken up in a pamphlet, just received here from Illinois, in which THOMAS B. SHOAFF of Shelbyville, great-grandson of LINCOLN's stepmother, discusses the fate of the cabin in Macon County, Ill., which was the first home of the Emancipator in that State. It was built by LINCOLN and his two cousins, DENNIS and JOHN HANKS, and a picture of it is signed by the cousins attesting that this particular one is the real article. Mr. SHOAFF, who says he is the oldest editor and publisher in active service in this country, deposes that his father, DENNIS and JOHN HANKS took down the cabin, log by log, in "June, July or August, 1865," and re-erected it on Boston Common, where it was exhibited by them. Later the elder SHOAFF accompanied the cabin to Chicago. It was then sold to an English syndicate but is supposed to have been lost in transit to England. The cabin, sayeth the deponent, was not shown at Boston in 1861, as has been claimed, or at Philadelphia in 1876. Thus it is sought to clear up another mystery of Lincolniana. *NY Times 8-4-29*

The Lincoln Log Cabin

From Eagle

Oct 31 1930

Chicago, Ill., October 20.—[To The Eagle:] The log cabin near Decatur, built by Abraham Lincoln did not go to Boston until it had been exhibited at Chicago, during the Great Sanitary Fair in the spring and summer of 1865. It was one of the popular exhibits at that fair. I have a very good account of the log cabin exhibit and of the men who attended to its care and who gave daily talks to visitors "who were greatly interested in the exhibit."

At the close of the Sanitary Fair the log cabin it has been said was taken to Boston, but I was not able to verify such statement, although I opened correspondence with the proper authorities in Boston and also with the Massachusetts Historical Society. However, later, I was advised The Goodspeed's Book Shop of Boston had a "Broadside," advertising the log cabin as on display in Boston. I wrote the firm and was given an option on it for several weeks and had that option at the time I spoke at the Gordon Cemetery, in which is buried Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln. The occasion being Memorial Day, 1929.

After satisfying myself I did not care to purchase the "Broadside." I consulted Dr. William E. Barton, as to the advisability of getting it for The Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association, of which Dr. Barton is a member of the executive board. Upon his suggestion I canceled my option and Dr. Barton purchased the "Broadside." I have a photostat of the "Broadside" presented to me personally by Dr. Barton. I value it greatly, not only for its historic interest, but as a gift from my personal friend, Dr. Barton.

ELEANOR GRIDLEY.

Orbett, A

Decatur Cabin

The Boston Globe

P. O. BOX 189

BOSTON, MASS. March 28, 1930.

Dr Louis A. Warren, Dear Sir: Thank you very much for the several " Lincoln Lore " bulletins I have received by you of late, by mail. The only reason I have not acknowledged receipt of them before was that I wanted to have some information worth while to you, to send you. Will tell you now that within two weeks I shall send you all I have learned in regard to the Illinois log cabin of Lincoln, on Boston Common in 1865, the eventual fate of which, I am sorry to say, I have been unable to learn, and fear no one ever will learn it. The last heard of it, so far as I can learn at present, was that it went from Boston to New York, where it was exhibited several weeks. Then it seems as completely, as up till now, it did after leaving Boston. ~~Though it is said to have been scheduled for a trip to England,~~ I doubt very much if it ever got there, as it would have had to arrived there in Winter, which I should, think would have been an unfavorable time for exhibition.

If you can think what Historical society interested in Lincoln in Illinois was most likely the one which inquired of my paper, the Boston Globe, about 25 years ago, if we could let them know where the cabin went to from Boston, in 1865, I wish you would make the suggestion, I should like to let the society know, even now, at this late day.

I discovered in reading an ar interview I had with a second cousin of Abraham Lincoln in 1902 that she told me that John
(over)

Hanks, son of Joseph Hanks, the John who helped Abraham Lincoln build the log cabin in 1830 in Illinois, was at that time living in Louisiana (something), Missouri, though I imagine that if that was true he must have been about 100 years old. It was not the state of Louisiana, but a small community of that name in Missouri, where the cousin I interviewed had herself lived in her youth. You will hear from me very soon again.

Truly yours,

A. Corbett.

April 1, 1930

Mr. A. Corbett
The Boston Globe
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Corbett:

I am indeed glad to learn that you have been doing some original work in tracing the Hanks cabin.

I think it might be of help to you if you would write to Mr. Edward J. Jacob of Peoria, Illinois, who has published two or three brochures on this subject. He may have accumulated other matter since the publishing of the last one.

With reference to your question about the Historical Society in Illinois who first inquired about the moving of the cabin twenty-five years ago, my first thought would be that it is the Illinois State Historical Society at Springfield.

The Chicago Historical Society for a great many years has been very active in gathering Lincoln data, and I would say the query came from one of these two societies.

John Hanks, who was born in 1802, died at Metlin Farm, Hickory Point, Illinois, on July 1, 1889. The autumn before he died tradition says he was carried to the polls to vote for Benjamin Harrison. His wife died March 22, 1863.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in the discussion you are to present, will you please feel free to call upon me.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.
P.S. Would you kindly forward me a copy of the Boston Globe for February 13, which had a very fine summary of my address before the historical society at Boston?

April 14, 1930

Mr. Alexander Corbett
The Boston Globe
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Corbett:

Yesterday I ran across a footnote in a biography of Abraham Lincoln written by Mrs. P. A. Hanaford in 1865.

It appears on the bottom of page 23 and after mentioning the new cabin built by John Hanks and Abraham Lincoln in Illinois this note appears:

"In this work the Lincolns were assisted by a relative of Abraham's mother, named John Hanks. While this volume was in preparation Mr. Hanks was in Boston exhibiting this identical log cabin, together with other relics of Lincoln's early days of poverty and obscurity. He is an honest looking gentleman with a silvery beard, about seven years older than Mr. Lincoln, but much more venerable in appearance. He can neither read nor write. He says that his cousin, Dennis F. Hanks, taught 'little Abe' his letters. The log cabin above mentioned has no windows; but a half sheet of paper oiled, placed in a sort of wooden shutter, admitted a little light when the shutter was closed. It is said to be truly a Union cabin having in it sticks of oak, hickory, hackberry, red elm, walnut, basswood, honey, locust, and sassafras, but it is believed not a stick of pine. The dimensions are eighteen feet by sixteen; and it is nine logs or about eight feet high. It has a peaked roof, the highest point of which is about five feet from the level of its eaves. It was begun March 30, 1830; and four days were spent in building it."

I trust this item may be of some interest to you as it gives accurate dimensions of the cabin, the first I have seen.

Respectfully yours,

April 25, 1930.

Dear Mr Warren: Many thanks for the several interesting Log Cabin lore you have sent me, all of which was very instructive. I am always glad to get them and shall put them permanently in some library.

I send you my story from the Globe containing all I could unearth from old Boston newspaper files relative to the exhibition of Lincoln's Macon-County, Ills., Log Cabin in 1865, on Boston Common. I am sorry I was unable to trace the cabin farther in its perigrinations, but the trail was entirely lost on Oct 28, 1865, when it got through at Barnum's Museum.

I have tried Philadelphia papers of the next several weeks after Oct 2, 1865, without finding any mention of the cabin being there. Am inclined that it either went to Pittsburg, Cincinnati, or possibly, Albany or Buffalo, or barely possibly, St Louis after New York, but fear that it stopped travelling after leaving Barnum's, and perhaps became firewood. I have not access to newspapers of any of the cities I mentioned. It is probably doubtful if it went to Washington, but possibly it may have. You see it was getting cold, on Oct 28, and I should not suppose it would go to any but a city with mild climate. I suppose it might be worth while to put a question about it in English "Notes and Queries," which probably is published in London. Had the cabin gone to England it would have got there about the middle of November, 1865, I suppose, or early December, 1865.

The type-written Herald account of arrival of cabin in Boston in July, 1865, is added, because originally part of my story, but slashed out by desk editors "for want of room in the paper."

Truly Yours,

Alexander Corbett

Letter from Governor R. J. Oglesby of Illinois to John Hanks, relative to the Lincoln log-cabin exhibited, in 1865, showing that the Governor had seen the cabin before it was removed from its original site. The Governor was an old friend of President Lincoln in Illinois.

State of Illinois, Executive Department,
Springfield, May 20, 1865.

John Hanks Es., Decatur, Ills.,

My Dear Old Friend -- In reply to your question relating to the log-cabin said to have been built by yourself, Thomas Lincoln, and the late President, Abraham Lincoln, I take pleasure in stating to you that for 25 years there has been no doubt in the public mind in Macon County, Illinois, on this question. If the cabin you now have is the one you pointed out to me in the Spring of 1860, when you were collecting the Lincoln relics, I cheerfully state that I am certain it is the one built by Mr. Lincoln. Besides, your voluntary statements on the subject abundantly satisfy me there can be no mistake about it.

As the old companion and friend of Mr. Lincoln, and one who has been constant in the support of his administration, and an ardent friend of the Union, I hope you may receive a just compensation for your efforts to bring before the country the simple but honorable testimonies to the early, laborious and worthy efforts of our beloved late President in his youth, to make for himself a home, a fortune and a name.

The old cabin would be out of place in any other hands than your own. You should retain the control of it, that not one timber may be lost. There is but one such in the United States, and it rightfully and properly should be entrusted to your keeping.

(Signed)

Richard J. Oglesby,
Governor of Illinois.

This cabin was exhibited on Boston Common, from July 15 to Sept 9, 1865.

Then at Barnum's Museum, N. Y. city, from Sept 18 till end of October, 1865.

A. C. Corbett.
April 25, 1930.



Admission, Adults, 25¢ -
children, — 10¢.

G. LAWRENCE

TWO HISTORIC HOUSES

Nucleus for a National Museum in Washington.

LINCOLN'S LITTLE LOG CABIN

It Will Be Brought to the Capital, Together with the Famous McLean House, of Appomattox, Va., Where Lee and Grant Met to Sign the Terms of Surrender — The Grounds May Possibly Be Turned into a National Park.

WASHINGTON, which possesses so many historic treasures, is to be further enriched by two relics of national importance about which are entwined most closely memories of the two great Union and Confederate leaders, as well as of the President who fell just as his dreams of a reunited land were being realized. These relics are the log-cabin, which was built by Lincoln and his father, and the McLean house at Appomattox, Va., the place in which Lee and Grant met and signed the terms of surrender.

The Lincoln log cabin is now in Chicago, but it is but the question of a short while before it will be brought on and erected in Washington. The McLean house will stand in the same lot, and both will comprise part of a museum which will be the property of patriotic Washington gentlemen, prominent among them being Col. M. E. Dunlap, to whose energies is due the preservation of these souvenirs of the most memorable epoch of American history. Col. Dunlap, who fought under Gen. Banks, is the owner of the McLean house, the title of the cabin being with the rest of the gentlemen who are organized under the name of the National War Museum Company.

Story of the Lincoln Cabin.

The Lincoln cabin, when it stands in the shadow of the Capitol, will be just the same rough frontier abode as it was when built of unhewn logs in 1830. Every bit of timber, every nail, every shingle has been religiously preserved, so that there will be the rude hut with its fireplace of broken bricks, its pegs running up the walls, which had no ladder to mount to the garret, its tumbling door and ill-shapen window, just as they stood when Lincoln paid his farewell visit to his home before leaving for Washington and his inauguration.

Lincoln was born in Kentucky, but moved with his father to Indiana at an early age, and it was in Spencer County that his mother, who was a Miss Nancy Hanks before marriage, died. Young Abe was then a lad of about eight. The father subsequently returned to Kentucky, where he married a second time, his last wife being a sweetheart of his early youth. As Miss Bush, she had won the elder Lincoln's heart, but she discarded him for a Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson died, and Mr. Lincoln, being a widower, the affair of old times was renewed, and in a short time the second Mrs. Lincoln was ensconced in her new home in Coles County, Ill. Here it was that Mr. Lincoln, with the help of young Abe, erected the cabin. The second wife, who proved to be a most de-

voted stepmother, brought with her from her old Kentucky home a common bedstead, on which the boy was for the first time in his life, put to sleep, and on which his father and stepmother afterward died.

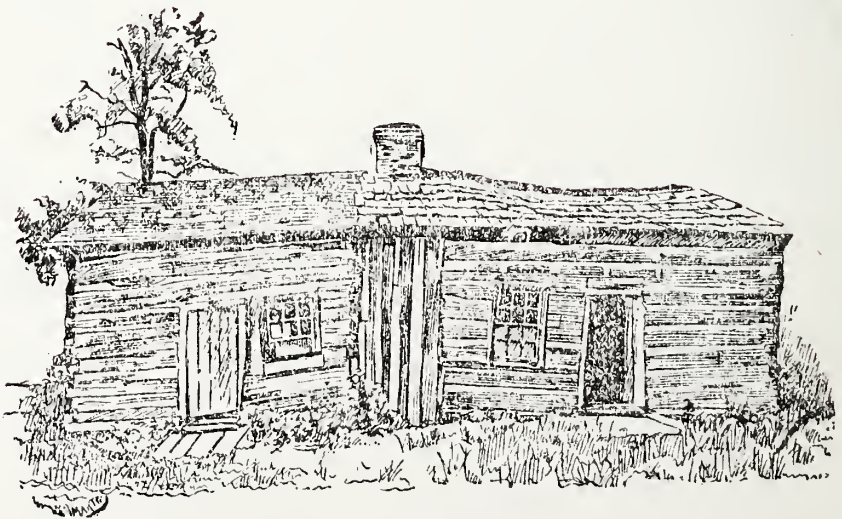
Studied by the Fireplace.

When Lincoln was studying law, he spent part of his time at his father's cabin, employing himself by mastering the books of Euclid. With a bit of paper held on the back of a shovel he worked out all of the problems till the whole book was clear as day to his mind, then he set out from the humble abode to begin his career as a lawyer in Springfield.

Lincoln's father was dead, and the President-elect picked up from the ground a bit of old scantling, broke it in two, sharpened one end, and walking over to his father's grave, drove the piece of wood on which the father's initials were cut at the head of the grave, remarking that when he could afford it he would get something better. When the money was afterward sent so that a tombstone could be erected, the recipient of the fund pocketed it, and had it not been for the generosity of Mr. C. F. Gunther, of Chicago, the grave would long ago have sunken out of sight.

After the death of the elder Lincoln the stepmother, who was much loved by Lincoln, lived in the cabin with a near relative, John Hall, who remained with her till her death in 1869. The cabin then passed through several hands, but was at last bought by an association in Chicago, and from this it was obtained by its present owners. Among the relics of the family which will be placed in the hut will be the bed on which Lincoln first slept, the wheel on which the yarn for his clothing was spun, and the ax which he used in cutting fence rails.

Washington Post 8-16-1896



Lincoln Log Cabin.

"ABE" LINCOLN'S CABIN.

The Relic to Be Removed to the City of Chicago.

An Association Purchases the Historic Property from a Relative of the Martyr President — A Condensed History of the Place.

Lincoln's cabin is in Chicago and as soon as a suitable building can be erected the home in which Abraham Lincoln passed his boyhood will be placed therein, together with such relics of the martyr president as can be procured, and exhibited. It will, according to the Tribune, be one of the permanent attractions in Chicago.

Several months ago the existence of a cabin built by Abraham Lincoln and his father became known to a party of Chicago gentlemen, and they determined to secure the interesting relic. In the latter part of June Mrs. Norah Gridley was sent to Coles county and visited the cabin which was at the time occupied, and had for years been the home of John J. Hall, a relative of the late president. The Halls were well to do, and had become attached to the place, so long their home, but they were prevailed upon to part with it.

The cabin became the property of the Abraham Lincoln association. With the property a deed to the land on which it stood and the one-half acre garden of Grandma Lincoln passed into the possession of the association. The purchasers have secured every link in the chain of title from the patent of the government to Thomas Lincoln to the deed of conveyance to the association. Among them is a deed in Abraham Lincoln's handwriting and the only known document in existence to which the joint signatures of Abraham and Mary Lincoln are attached.

The cabin was built in 1831, and is constructed of oak logs cut by Abraham and his father in the river bottoms and hauled to the spot where the cabin was erected. It contained one room and a loft, and is sixteen feet in length by

tire structure thirty-six feet in length. Shortly after building the addition young Abe left home, but made it a duty to visit his parents twice a year, walking to the homestead that he might save the expense of livery bills. Then he would walk six miles from the cabin to the county seat and pay the interest on money borrowed from the school funds by his father to enter his land.

His last visit to the old home was in December, 1861, after his election to the presidency. He cut a log, split it, and carved his father's name upon the two boards, which he placed at the head and foot of Thomas Lincoln's grave in the Gorton cemetery. These humble monuments are gone, and the resting-place of the great president's father is now marked by a handsome granite monument. It was on this occasion that his stepmother, to whom Abraham was devotedly attached, said: "They'll kill you, my boy, and I won't see you again." She never did.

The ground on which the cabin stood will be encircled by a neat fence and the spot memorialized by a monument. The association will endeavor to preserve the garden, with its wreath of sage and hollyhocks to remind mankind of the humble origin of a great man.

published 1897



ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LOG CABIN.

eighteen feet in depth and nineteen feet high. In 1835 an addition of the same dimensions was built of quaking aspen with a small storage-room of four feet in width between, making the en-

300
a volume, obtained for
to maintain the same
to keep

THE LINCOLN HOMESTEAD.

**It Is to Be Denuded of the Log Cabin for
World's Fair Purposes.**

DANVILLE, Ky., Oct. 10.—A committee from Chicago in the interest of the World's Fair visited Washington County near here, this week, and bought of Henry Reed the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln lived as a boy, and where his father was married to Mamie Hanks, the certificate being preserved there yet in the County Clerk's office. The price paid for this historic relic was \$1,000, and it will be taken down and erected on a prominent site at the World's Fair. 1890

A BITTER but seemless
dispute is ranging betwixt
Washington country
for the honor of being
of ABRAHAM LINCOLN
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HOMER dead and
begged his daily

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S LOG-CABIN, on exhibition at the Chicago Fair, which he helped to build with his own hands in the days of his youth and poverty, is the most interesting of all the objects in the Fair. It has been brought piecemeal from its original location, and erected inside a broad inclosure at the corner of Randolph street and Wabash avenue. It is a quadrangular building, about sixteen by sixteen, as nearly as its measurement can be guessed, and is a veritable log-cabin, an aboriginal backwoodsman's dwelling.

RECEIVED ADV

May 1, 1930

May 1, 1930

Mr. Alexander Corbett
Boston Daily Globe
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Corbett:

I want to thank you for the very interesting item which you sent me with reference to the cabin on Boston common.

I think you have pretty well exhausted the subject and unless some further discoveries are made in Washington or Philadelphia papers, it appears as if you have said the last word about this old relic.

You may feel sure I will keep in mind any new item that may appear on this question and advise you of the same if one is discovered.

Respectfully yours,

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LH

"We have an 'Uncle Tom's' cabin in storage there also, which is an interesting relic. It was at the World's Fair and I believe proved a drawing attraction."

Genuine Historic House

George M. Bogue said, "The Lincoln cabin was discovered you might say by Col. F. R. Southmayd, a well-known Chicagoan. The cabin is spoken of in various histories of President Lincoln. Its purchase and exhibition was Col. Southmayd's plan, and several Chicago people were interested. The principal owner now resides in Washington. Steps of some kind will be taken in the near future to either dispose of the relic or place it in some place for permanent keeping."

Is it genuine?"

"O, yes. It was purchased from a lineal descendant of the Lincoln family, the title being perfectly straight."

Mr. Bogue thought there was little probability that the State of Illinois or the county in which the cabin was built would purchase and preserve the relic. In fact he was at a loss to tell exactly what would be done with it.

Above copied from a clipping of The Chicago Tribune in the possession of G. L. Barnes

Ind
West Lafayette, 9/22/32. Mr. Banes says
~~neither~~ of the two cabins
were sold but the greater part
were burned. Mr. Saml. S. Boggs
who had charge of the Liberty
Prison War Museum told him to
take what he wished. He filled
a large box with the wood
from both cabins and sent it
to his home in West Lafayette.

Not finding any
advantageous way of disposing
of the wood and being crowded
for space, he used the greater
portion for fire wood.

Tires of Lincoln Cabin

Libby Prison Company Finds the Relic a Burden.

Managers Notify The Owners of the Old Log House to remove it or They Will Sell or Give It Away. Historic Building, Little more than a Mass of Ruins - President gave it to His Father When He Left Home - Has Not Been on Exhibition Since 1892.

The managers of the Libby Prison War Museum company have arrived at the conclusion they are overstocked with curiosities in the form of log cabins. There are two held in storage in the prison yard, and the managers have determined to get rid of at least one of them.

"Uncle Tom", the negro slave character made famous by Mrs. Stowe's novel, occupied one of the cabins at one time. It was brought from a cotton plantation on the Red River, the plantation said to have been owned by a person represented in the story as Simon Legree. The other cabin was brought to Chicago in 1892 from near Charleston, Ill. It was built by Thomas Lincoln, and occupied by the President's parents after Abraham Lincoln left the roof-tree at Decatur. The log house and surrounding land were given by Mr. Lincoln to his father, there being a stipulation that it should be held by him as long as he lived. The Lincoln Cabin is owned by a few Chicago

citizens, and has not been on exhibition since 1892.

Notice Given to Owners.

The determination of the Libby Prison managers, to get rid of one of their cabin relics is evidenced by the following advertisement printed in the Chicago papers yesterday:

PERSONAL-PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given to owners and others who may claim an interest in the "Abraham Lincoln Cabin" to remove the same from the premises of the Libby Prison War Museum, on Wabash-av. or it will be sold to pay charges or donated to some historical or other society.

Charles F. Gunther, President of The Libby Prison concern said,

"That Lincoln cabin is a valuable relic. It was a one story, chink and daub affair about forty feet long. It was torn down for transportation and rebuilt it in the old exposition building, the only place where it was ever exhibited. Some time after the World's Fair we allowed them to store it in the prison yard. Of course it looks like a pile of rubbish now, and we need the space it occupies.

"Aside from Mr. Boque, I do not remember to whom it belongs, and we have lost track of the real owners. All that was intended by the advertisement was to bring the owners of the relic to the front in order that it might be disposed of properly."

(6134.) In the summer or fall of 1865 there was exhibited on the Common a log cabin said to have been built by Abraham Lincoln and others with whom he was associated. Can anyone give a description of it, or about the time it was there? Q

6134. I have an authentic piece of Abraham Lincoln's log cabin, together with a descriptive circular which was issued by the company, exhibiting that to which you refer. I do not know the exact date of its exhibition, but I would be pleased to show both of these relics to you at any time.

W. G. L.

I have a photograph of a log cabin, "President Lincoln's First Home in Illinois," built by Lincoln and John Hanks. It was exhibited by John Hanks on Boston Common about the year 1865. The house was built in 1830.

L. F. S. B.

Hanks Cabin Notes - Mrs White

"I have in my possession a jig-saw puzzle in the form of a chair,
in a small box on the cover of which is the label

LINCOLN LOG CABIN

Boston 1865

This is to certify that this is from the original Log Cabin
built by Abraham

I made a mistake. " The cabin was shown on the parade ground of Boston Common

John Hanks Log Cabin

"I have in my possession jig-saw in the form of a chair in a small box, on the cover of which is the label "Lincoln's Log Cabin Boston 1865. This is to certify that this is from the original Log Cabin built by Abraham Lincoln, John and Dennis F. Hanks in Macon County, Illinois in 1830. This souvenir was given me by a friend who well remembers her visit to the cabin and her mother's purchase of the chair at that time."

"J.R. Davis, 106 Summer Avenue, Reading, Mass. When the latter first appeared in notes and queries, Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock called on me and I later gave her the photograph of John Hanks which he gallantly presented to my mother at the time of our visit. I was about 10 years old when with my mother and eldest sister I visited the cabin. It seems to me that it stood toward Fremont not far from Park Street. There were a few visitors that afternoon. I think there was but one room and that from the rafters hung John Hanks' souvenirs of Lincoln and also splits of wood and a few small articles made from the cabin wood. You will see John Hanks in white trousers and white whiskers just as he looked that day, standing in front of the cabin and as I recall it, he said his other man was his cousin and I think also cousin of Lincoln."

"John Hanks was very sociable and jolly but I do not now remember his interesting conversation with my mother, who also bought a photograph of a letter or note from A. Lincoln to John Hanks, the original being shown in the cabin. On the back of the photograph is this: "President Lincoln's old companion. John Hanks whose photographic likeness is here given to the public was long associated with Abraham Lincoln during the years of his early manhood and shared with him the perils of and the hardships of pioneer life in the wilderness. He has now in his possession the log cabin built by President Lincoln and himself in Macon County, Illinois, in 1830. It is not necessary to say that such a man as our late Chief Magistrate never turned his back upon the associations or friends of his early years, and retained to his dying hour a strong friendship and high regard for his old associate and friend, Uncle Josh. This is a good specimen of the honest and worthy pioneer settlers with whom Abraham Lincoln spent his early years."

(Signed) Sidney Herbert

Author of the "Mother of Lincoln"
Entered according to Acts of Congress
Francis Paten, photographer
215 Washington Street
Boston

"I was born on February 12, 1855, Lincoln's Birthday. I recall that sad April day when people stood on street corners discussing the bad news. We school girls wore on our shoulders rosettes of black or black and white, and I recall that pictures of Lincoln were quickly on sale on the street.

"I did at one time try to collect Lincoln's pictures but too many made it impossible. At the Centennial I bought the picture of Old Age, The Live Wisconsin War Eagle carried for 3 years by the Eighth Wisconsin Regiment in the war of the Rebellion, The Eagle itself being on view. I understand that a speaker at the Milton Lincoln Cabin said there were no family group pictures of the Lincolns. I think he was misquoting for they abounded at one time and I have somewhere a poorly photograph of President and Mrs. Lincoln, Robert and the younger boy." Miss Lizzie F. L. Barnard, Post Office Box 2608, Boston, Mass.

LINCOLN'S CABIN

Sirs:

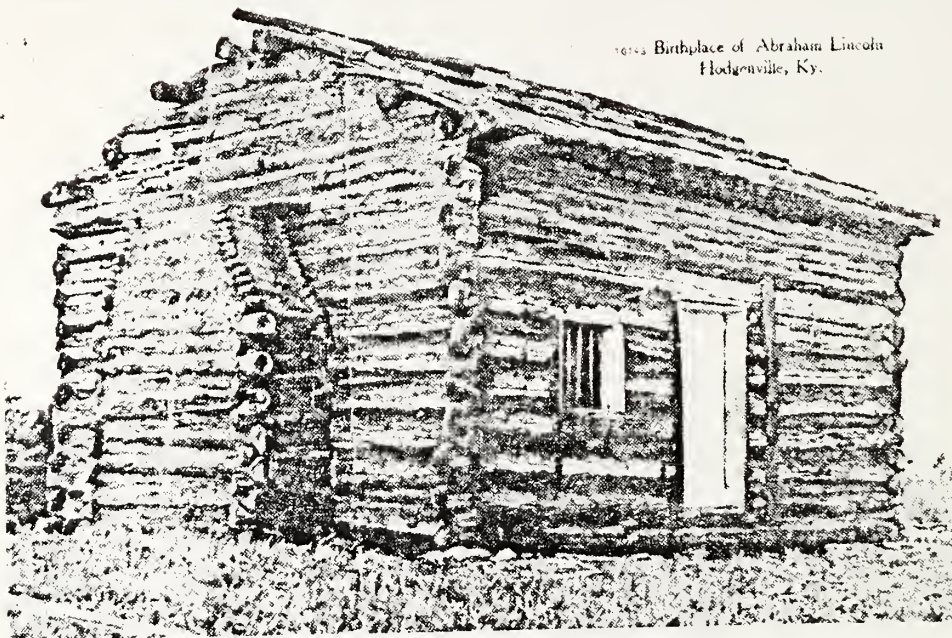
Lincoln's home in 1830 was this log cabin near Decatur, Ill. John Hanks, who helped Lincoln build the cabin, stands at the right. Dennis Hanks, who

gave Lincoln his first writing lessons, stands at the left. He was about 68 years old when this photograph was taken.

THEODORE J. HIEATT

Louisville, Ky.





Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln
Hodgenville, Ky.

RARE Postcard photograph of Lincoln birthplace sold at Lincoln centennial ceremonies on Feb. 12, 1909 near Hodgenville, Ky.

Those Lincoln Logs — Have Really Been Around

by Glenn Kerfoot

Each year thousands of visitors from all over the world visit the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site to ogle a tiny, dilapidated log hut reputed to be the structure in which the 16th president of the United States was born. Most return home convinced that they have seen Abraham Lincoln's birthplace on the very spot where it has stood undisturbed for more than 170 years. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Records on the cabin's early years are spotty, and include a few claims that The 'Great Emancipator' was not even born in it. However, history does record that in the early 1860's, while Lincoln was President, one George Rodman bought the cabin from a man named Richard Creal and hauled it to his property a mile and a half north.

Rodman bought the cabin to make sure it would be preserved for posterity. Right? Wrong. He bought it to serve as a shelter for a family of black tenant farmers working his land.

During 1872-73 the hut was pressed into service as a one room school house, but in 1875 it became a dwelling once more when a John Davenport moved in and set up housekeeping. Davenport lived in it for the next 19 years.

In 1894, A. W. Dennett of New York bought the cabin and returned it to its original site, but it was later dismantled again and hauled to Nashville, Tenn., for exhibition at a community wide celebration. It was subsequently torn down again, crated, and shipped to New York City where it was reconstructed in that city's famous Central Park.

In 1901 the old cabin was sent to Buffalo, N.Y., for exhibition at the Pan American Exposition. Ironically, it was there, on September 6th, that President William McKinley was assassinated not far from where the cabin stood.

The Creal family became involved again when David Creal purchased the logs and had them stored in the old Poffenhouse mansion on Long Island, New York.

In 1906, the aging timbers were sold again, this time to a group calling itself the Lincoln Farm Association. They were sent back to Kentucky and rebuilt into a cabin for the city of Louisville's home

coming celebration. After the festivities the logs were placed in storage at Louisville.

In 1909 widespread attention was focused on all Lincoln memorabilia as the nation prepared to observe the 100th anniversary of the martyred President's birth. Naturally, the cabin was again in demand. The logs were shipped from Louisville to the original site, where, on February 12th, President Theodore Roosevelt officially dedicated the site as Lincoln's birthplace and announced that a granite edifice would be erected to contain and protect the little cabin from the elements.

But the little hut's earthly travels were not over yet. After the ceremonies it was again dismantled and the logs returned to Louisville for safekeeping. They remained in storage until 1911 when they were again carted to the Hardin County site to be reassembled inside the granite shelter.

Five years later, the federal government took over control of the cabin, temple and surrounding land, naming it the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, the name by which it is known today.

CABINS ON EXHIBITION

DRAWER II

BIRTHPLACE CABINS

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